



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, September 6, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and Fuji TV led with reports on heavy rain in Hokkaido. NTV gave top play to a report that several elementary schools in Iwate resumed classes today after suffering damage due to Typhoon Lionrock. A total of 16 people were killed and 7 people remain missing in the prefecture. TV Asahi reported that another typhoon is approaching Okinawa.

SECURITY

Hundreds protest against helipad construction at Northern Training Area

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Sept. 4 that as many as 500 people participated in protests at the gate to the N1 helipad construction site in the Northern Training Area and at Takae Bridge on Route 70 at around 6 a.m. on Sept. 3. The protesters held the demonstrations as part of a campaign to stage large-scale protest rallies every Wednesday and Saturday.

In a related development, Okinawa Times wrote on Sept. 6 that the Okinawa police used their own vehicles to transport dozens of civilian workers to the helipad construction site on Sept. 2 and 5. The workers were transported from an area on Route 70, where their vehicles were blocked by protesters, to the N1 gate. The police told the paper that they transported the workers to ensure their safety. The protesters criticized the police for getting directly involved in the construction work.

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote on Sept. 6 that the face-off between riot police and protesters near the Northern Training Area is inconveniencing local residents, citing an episode in which an elementary school teacher arrived at school an hour late after getting stuck in traffic near the construction site. The school principal called on both the police and the protesters to stop taking actions that adversely affect local residents.

Okinawa resident asks U.S. Embassy for access to Camp Schwab to collect remains of war dead

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote on Sept. 6 that an Okinawa resident involved in volunteer activities to collect the remains of those who died in the Battle of Okinawa sent emails to the U.S. Embassy and the USFJ on Sept. 5 asking for permission to enter Camp Schwab to collect the remains of those who died at the Ourasaki internment camp, which was located within Camp Schwab. Although the Japanese government generally conducts coordination for such visits to U.S. bases, the man made the request directly to the U.S. He said: "The U.S. carted off residents of Okinawa and deprived them of their freedom. Many people died of starvation or malaria. This is mass abuse by the U.S. military that violates international law. This is not a domestic problem, but an issue involving the U.S. military and Okinawa." The man had not received any response from the U.S. as of 8 p.m. on Sept. 5.

NHK commentators answer questions about U.S. bases in Japan

NHK's "Nippon-jin no Gimon" (Questions of Japanese people), a program held sporadically in which NHK commentators answer questions on certain topics from young Japanese people interviewed in Shibuya, focused on the U.S. bases in Japan. The first question was: "Why are there U.S. bases in Japan?" An NHK commentator explained that maintaining U.S. bases in Japan was a condition for Japan to gain independence after the war. Another commentator said the U.S. needed to prevent danger in various parts of the world in order to protect itself and Japan's location was convenient. The second question was: "Who pays the cost?" A commentator said both the USG and GOJ pay the cost, but Japan's share of burden has gradually increased. Other questions included: "What kind of people are stationed in Japan?" "What's it like inside the U.S. bases?" and "Why are the U.S. bases concentrated in Okinawa?"

When asked "Why do U.S. service members cause trouble?" one commentator explained that there were about 5,900 incidents involving U.S. military service members from 1972 to 2015, which is about 100 cases a year, or one every three days. He said the ratio cannot be compared with crimes committed by Japanese people in Okinawa because the number of U.S. service members in Okinawa is unknown. The number of incidents involving Marines is higher than the other branches of the armed forces because there are more Marines stationed in Japan. The program also said the average age of Marines is the lowest among the armed forces, adding that some feel that since they will be the first ones to be sent to warzones, their feelings of tension and pressure could be the cause of the incidents. In response to the question: "What happens to U.S. service members who commit crimes in Japan?" a commentator explained the SOFA, adding that some feel that incidents involving U.S. troops will not go away as long as the SOFA exists. On the question: "Why can't the Futenma issue be resolved?" a commentator said although the USG and GOJ originally agreed to shut down and remove the Futenma base following the 1995 rape incident and 2005 helicopter crash, the relocation of the base has become a precondition, adding that this is one of the reasons for the frustration of the people of Okinawa. The commentator noted that there

is probably not enough coordination or discussion among the USG, GOJ, and Okinawa on Futenma.

When asked “Would ‘President Trump’ withdraw the troops from Japan?” a commentator said this would not be realistic and even if “President Trump” decided to withdraw troops from Japan, U.S. Congress would stop him because having troops in Japan is also beneficial for the U.S. When asked “What will happen to Japan’s security?” one participant explained that Japan’s deterrence is maintained by the offensive capability of the U.S. military and the defensive capability of the SDF. Another commentator added that while the U.S. military is protecting Japan, it doesn’t mean that Japan should do whatever the U.S. says since Japan and the U.S. are on equal terms, adding that the GOJ should continue to talk to the U.S. about reducing the base-hosting burden on Okinawa.

- [North Korea shakes up G-20 summit with missile launch](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [“Seiron” column: Is Okinawa Governor Onaga getting spoiled?](#) (Sankei Online)
- [F-35 deployment to Japan to begin in 2017](#) (Akahata)
- [New training airspace to be established for relocation of U.S. carrier-based airplanes](#)(Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Developing new missiles helps prevent China’s provocations near Senkakus](#)(The Japan News)

INTERNATIONAL

President Putin says Russia has returned to negotiation table on Northern Territories

TV Asahi reported at noon that President Putin said on Tuesday in China that Russia “has returned to the negotiating table” on the issue of Northern Territories and that Russia will move forward with the negotiations on the Northern Territories based on the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration which called on Russia to return the Habomai and Shikotan islands to Japan. The network said that the Russian leader also pointed out the need to examine conditions for the return of the two islands and jurisdiction of the islands. Putin also reportedly expressed the view that the negotiations will not be easy by saying there are security, economy, and humanitarian issues.

- [Gist of Japan-China summit, Sept. 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of PM Abe’s news conference, Sept. 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, China agree to continue dialogue despite challenges](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [No breakthroughs, but Japan-China summit talks finally resume](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S., Chinese officials engage in “shouting match” in Hangzhou](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Xi Jinping, senior Chinese leaders refrain from attending anti-Japan meeting](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of Japan-Russia summit, Sept. 2](#) (Asahi)
- [Putin praises Abe as a “distinguished politician”](#) (Asahi)

- [Japan firms keeping eyes peeled for business opportunities in Russia](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Putin proposes launching Japan-Russia-Korea working group to facilitate electricity exports](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [China will not be granted preferential rights in Russian Far East development: Russia's first deputy prime minister](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Can Putin's visit to Japan help move N. territories issue forward?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Do Obama, Xi regret their summit talks didn't do much for Asian stability?](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on September 4](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on September 3](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on September 2](#) (Nikkei)
- [Three candidates for DP presidency favor constitutional amendment](#) (Nikkei)
- [Can 3 candidates for DP president reexamine cooperation with JCP?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: DP leadership contenders should compete to present moderate policies](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Gov't should carry out reforms by leveraging on political strength](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [BOJ's Kuroda optimistic about options, conscious of costs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't picks members of regulatory reform council with emphasis on experience, women](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kantei trying to exert influence on work style reform, but may face uphill battle](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese automakers eye Africa as next frontier](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

EDUCATION

- [English heads for elementary school in 2020 but hurdles abound](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [48% say they are opposed to "rush-to-the-rescue" missions, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

- [Highlights of the August 2016 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

TV PROGRAMS

DP presidential candidates discuss campaign platforms, experts welcome Abe-Putin meeting

NHK's Sunday morning talk show "Nichiyo Toron" highlighted a discussion between the three lawmakers running in the Democratic Party's party presidential election on Sept. 15. All of the three candidates – Acting President Renho, former Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara, and Deputy Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Yuichiro Tamaki – stressed that it is necessary for the DP and the Japanese Communist Party to agree on key policy issues in order to cooperate. The candidates criticized Abenomics for focusing too heavily on monetary policy. The lawmakers expressed their readiness to hold discussions on constitutional amendment while stressing the importance of constitutionalism.

In the latter half of the program, Canon Institute for Global Studies senior researcher Kunihiro Miyake, Hosei University Professor Nobuo Shimotomai, and former Japanese Ambassador to China Yuji Miyamoto discussed Prime Minister Abe's meeting with Russian President Putin on Sept. 2 in Vladivostok. The panelists welcomed the meeting as achieving a breakthrough in the stalled territorial talks between Japan and Russia, but Miyake stressed the need for Tokyo to be firm in territorial discussions with Moscow.

Series on "Mega Crises" – Part 1: Extreme weather

NHK's "NHK Special" on Sunday reported on extreme weather in the world, saying that it has been pointed out that the ice at the North Pole may be completely melted by the summer of 2020. The program said it is feared that a large amount of methane could be released when the permafrost soil in the Arctic Circle melts, which will accelerate global warming. The program also reported on the increasing number of super typhoons, torrential rain, and thunderstorms in Japan, saying that although it is difficult to forecast such localized phenomena with the current available technology, scientists are working hard to make that possible.

